



MILWAUKEE NUMISMATIC NEWS

June 2018 – The next regular MNS meeting will be held on June 21, 2018, 7 PM, at the Mayfair Mall Community Room. The agenda is the semi-annual club auction.

President: Justin Perrault
Secretary: James Kubley
Sgt. at Arms: Dave Herrewig
Trustee '17-'19: Dave Hunsicker
Librarian: Justin Perrault

Vice President: Jim Heinrich
Treasurer: John Bleidorn
Trustee '16-'18: Gary Bieringer
Trustee '18-'20: Tom Dallmann
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The Milwaukee Numismatic Society, founded in 1934, is the oldest and largest organization in Milwaukee devoted to the study of money. Meetings are held at 7:00 PM on the third Thursday of each month in the Community Room on the lower level of Mayfair Mall (W. North Avenue at N. Mayfair Road). The annual MNS coin show is held in October.

June Coin of the Month: This month we offer a gold-plated Bitcoin medal, dated 2013. So-called genuine Bitcoins sell for around \$7000 or \$8000, but you can have and hold this one for a starting bid of just \$4.



June 2018 MNS President's Message

I certainly hope many of you were able to enjoy some time outdoors over the unseasonably warm Memorial Day holiday. Or maybe you were indoors organizing your collection. Whatever it was you were up to, I hope that everyone enjoyed their holiday and found time to step back for a moment and reflect on the sacrifices that had been made on our behalf. These sacrifices allow us the unique privilege of being able to engage in our collecting pursuits and our ordinary daily lives. A huge amount of appreciation goes out to everyone, past and present, who makes this possible.

Our spring auction at the last meeting netted a total of \$252.25 on thirty-six different lots. It was a lot of fun as always, so thanks to everyone who consigned and bid! At the June meeting the grading skills of our members will be put to the test. Tom D. will have an activity for us that will allow us to test our grading prowess. You have been warned, so start brushing up.

The informal club library has acquired two new books for members to use as references. The first title is "The Encased Coins of Wisconsin" by James Skwarek. This is a wonderfully updated and comprehensive listing of a large majority of the encased coins that can be collected from around our state. The book provides copious pictures of great quality and allows you to easily determine the rarity of your encased piece. From an advertising and design perspective, it is interesting to see these listed all in one place.

The second book acquired by the club is "Medals and Tokens of the Chicago Coin Club" by William A. Burd. This is a wonderful piece of history pertaining to our sister club to the south. The book outlines many of the commemorative pieces the CCC has issued throughout the years, along with history and stories to accompany these pieces. The book itself is a great example of what a club can do to preserve some of its history for future members to reference, and it makes me think of what the MNS might be able to hopefully compile in the coming years (if a member was so inclined to do the research and leg work).

Arrangements have been made for a club outing to occur at that Medalcraft Mint in Green Bay on July 14th. They have graciously opened up their production facilities for us to tour at 10:00 AM that day. I believe they recently acquired the Medallic Art Company, so exciting things are happening there. I hope that many of our members can attend. More info will be provided at the next meeting, but if you won't be there and want to attend the outing please let me know as soon as possible. I need to get a firm head count by the end of June. Based upon that, the club will more than likely be renting a small passenger size van to accommodate the attendees. Please note there will be no fee for members to attend, but non-members (i.e. spouses) will be charged \$15. I understand that this outing may conflict with the monthly IBNS meeting, but this was unfortunately the only date that worked for Medalcraft in July. As a consolation, I propose opening this event up to any IBNS non-MNS members free of charge.

Application for membership was received at the last meeting from Nathan Smith. Nathan is a YN applicant who lives in Wauwatosa and is looking forward to learning more about the numismatic hobby. Members at the next meeting will vote on his application, and I hope everyone will be able to meet him and welcome him into the club at that time.

Happy Collecting,
Justin J. Perrault
masters1122@yahoo.com
262.613.9996

MN\$ 2018

Schedule

Monthly meetings are held at 7:00 pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month in the Community Meeting Room in the lower level of Mayfair Mall. Visitors interested in numismatics are welcome.

Monthly meeting programs

Jan 18:	Officer Inductions; Post-Holiday BINGO game
Feb 15:	U.S. Coins Trivia Program hosted by Neil Shafer
March 15:	Peter Jacobsohn-Anesthetic History
April 19:	Slabbed vs. Raw Coins presentation by Tom Casper
May 17:	Spring Auction
June 21:	Tom Dallmann: Grading Test
July 14:	Club Outing to Medalcraft Mint Green Bay, WI (10:00 AM)
July 19:	NO MEETING
Aug 16:	Expanded Show and Tell
Sept 20:	Andy Kimmel: "Collecting, Coin Dealers, and How to Turn a Profit"
Oct 18:	Raffle Ticket Prize Drawing
Nov 15:	Autumn Auction; Election Slate
Dec 20:	Holiday Party; Officer Elections

PLEASE NOTE:

MNS is a volunteer organization. We always need new and interesting programs, activities, helpers to work at events, and someone to bring refreshments for the meetings. We are also looking for ideas for club outings. MNS will reimburse refreshment expenses up to \$60. To volunteer, please contact Pres. Justin Perrault at 262.613.9996 or VP Jim Heinrich at 262.796.1814. Thanks to everyone who has stepped up by volunteering their time and talent to make this club a success.

2018 Numismatic Events

June 7-9:	Great Chicago Coin Show Pheasant Run Resort 4051 E. Main St. St. Charles, IL
June 9:	Barron County Coin Club Show 2900 S. Main St. Rice Lake, WI 9:30 – 3:00 PM
August 12:	Beaver Dam Coin Club Show American Legion Post 300 Beichl Ave. Beaver Dam, WI 9:00 – 3:00 PM
October 7:	MNS Coin Show – Serb Hall 5101 W. Oklahoma Ave. 9:00 – 4:00 PM

Refreshment Schedule

Jan:	Don Kaminski
Feb:	Open
Mar:	Dave H.
Apr:	John B.
May:	Open
Jun:	Tom D.
Jul:	NO MEETING
Aug:	Justin P.
Sep:	Jeff G.
Oct:	Open
Nov:	Open
Dec:	Holiday Party

Annual Dues

Dues for 2018 are \$10. Please pay Leon A. at the next meeting, or they may be mailed to MNS, PO Box 26886, Wauwatosa, WI 53226-0886. Thanks to those who have paid.

Milwaukee Numismatic Society

Minutes

May 17, 2018

President Justin Perrault called the 990th meeting of the MNS to order at 7:00 p.m. There were 23 members and 5 guests in attendance. The president led the club in the pledge of allegiance, and a moment of silence in memory of the late MNS member Elroy Gilles. Door prizes were won by Tom R., Norm V., Tom R., Peter J., Steve J., Harry S., Malik, Leon S., Leon A., Nathan, and Edith S.

Coin of the Month: 1982-S USA proof set—won by Steve J. with a bid of \$7.

Show & Tell: Leon S.—shredded Federal notes and 1930 German medal; Neil S.—rare Philippine guerilla note; John B.—warning about bait and switch marketing, coin appraisal; Peter J.—Walter Reed medal; Tom S.—won 1888 silver dollar at Central States; Justin presented two new books for the Club Library.

Treasurer's Report: John B. reported zero receipts for April, and net disbursements of \$609.87 for a negative cash flow of \$609.87. The Club did earn interest of \$15.84.

Correspondence: The *Numismatist* was received, along with the Club's latest insurance invoice. Sympathy cards were signed for the family of Elroy Gilles.

Newsletter: Newsletter articles are always appreciated. Brief reminiscences of great circulation finds, local experiences, etc. are great additions.

New Member Application: Robin Russell was approved for membership by a vote of members present. A membership application (as a YN) was received from Nathan Smith who was present at the meeting. The Club will be voting on his membership at the June meeting.

Auction: The Club Spring auction was held.

July outing: Justin said he has considered various possibilities but has not yet made plans for a July outing. There was discussion whether an outing should be held on a weeknight, or on a Saturday. Several venues were suggested as possible destinations.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM by President Justin.

Respectfully submitted by Dave Herrewig

Currency of the Independent Republic of Armenia (1918-1920)

By L. A. Saryan

Exactly one century ago, on May 28, 1918, Caucasian Armenia declared its independence. Starving and destitute after the genocide by Ottoman Turkey against them just three years earlier, Armenians forged a miraculous turning point in their history. At three fateful battles near the city of Yerevan, outnumbered Armenian troops aided by ordinary citizens forced the Turks to retreat. Although the first Armenian state in over 500 years lasted just two and one-half years before it was absorbed into the Soviet Union, it formed the foundation of Armenian statehood that, after a century, continues today.

Generally, during times of war and economic distress, coins (especially gold and silver) tend to be retained by the public and disappear from circulation, causing shortages that must be filled by other media. This was especially true during World War I and the Russian revolutionary period. No coins were struck in Armenia at this time, but paper currency emissions were plentiful and varied.

As an independent state, Armenia had the prerogative to issue and circulate its own money. Between 1918 and late 1920, there were at least seven distinct types of paper currencies circulating in Armenia. Some types are relatively easy to locate while others are extremely rare. The types are summarized below, with relative rarity indicated by symbols as follows: C=common, R=rare, VR=Very Rare, ER=Extremely Rare.

1. Bank notes of the Transcaucasian Commissariat dated 1918. Sometimes called bonds, seven denominations ranging from 1 ruble to 250 rubles, inscribed in several languages, were issued. These were widely circulated in Armenia and other Caucasian countries. C.

2. Bonds of the Yerevan Branch of the State Bank, issued in 1918. These are overprinted on Russian bond coupons. They are unreserched and typically not even illustrated in major references. ER.

3. Checks of the Yerevan Branch of the State Bank, dated 1918. These resemble checks familiar to people in the USA and Europe. They were drawn against other Russian banks and circulated as currency. Likewise unresearched. VR to ER.

4. Notes of the Yerevan Branch of the State Bank (dated 1919 and 1920). Sometimes called "checks" because they were backed by assets in the state bank, these actually resemble bank notes. They are printed almost entirely in Russian and exist in two basic sizes and several denominations from 5 to 10,000 rubles. Large numbers of these notes were printed and circulated. These were functional in nature and are not distinguished for their artwork, design, or craftsmanship. C, with some types R to VR.

5. Artistic notes printed by Waterlow & Sons of London, dated 1919. Three denominations of 50, 100, and 250 rubles were issued. These notes carry legends in Armenian, French and Russian and depict national themes. The series is attractively designed (see below) using multicolor intaglio printing and unique serial numbers. C.

6. Notes issued by local city administrations, such as Alexandropol (Shirak), Yerevan, Kars, and others. These simply designed notes are generally in the Armenian language. Numerous printing varieties are seen on close examination. R to ER.

7. Thin cardboard or paper tokens issued by private shops, societies and cooperatives. Although several types are catalogued, almost nothing is known about most of these tokens or their issuers. Simply designed and printed, they are in need of more research. VR to ER.

The most attractive of these notes are the aforementioned artistic notes printed by Waterlow & Sons for the Armenian Finance Ministry. They were designed by artist Arshag Fetvadjian and printed under his direction. Each denomination has a unique size, design and color scheme. Although dated 1919, they only reached Armenia in late 1920 and circulated briefly before they were demonetized by the new Bolshevik government. The 100 ruble note, shown below, is my favorite. It shows an angry eagle severing a snake, an allegory that perfectly encapsulates the creation of the new Armenia.



NEW BOOK ON WISCONSIN ENCASED COINS

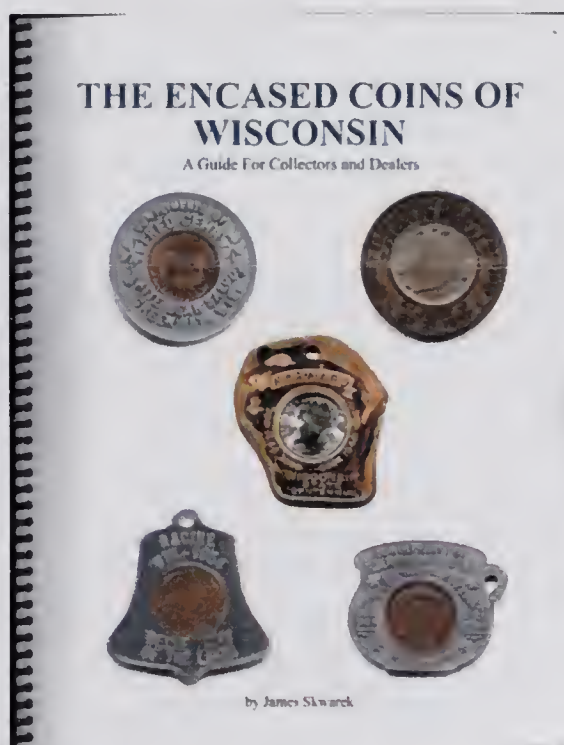
by Tom Casper

A badly needed exnumia book has just been released. Milwaukee collector James Skwarek has written a book on Wisconsin Encased Coins. The previous book on these was written in 1992. Since that time hundreds of additional pieces have turned up and are now listed in his book. Jim, who has collected these pieces for years, was assisted with listings for his book by many other individuals.

The book has 251 pages, is soft-covered and spiral bound so it lays open. All the pictures are enlarged in full color and show both sides. No expense was spared in its production. The book explains the background and purpose of encased coins. Most were issued for advertising purposes. The early pieces contain an Indian cent with many being quite rare. Most of the pieces are cents but other denominations are also known. Aluminum casements are most common but brass and plastic casements can also be found. One hundred seventy Wisconsin towns are represented as issuing these pieces. Milwaukee alone has 153 different pieces plus varieties. At the back of the book is a list of cities/towns that have issued tokens and a name index for maverick pieces (those without a city or state).

Most importantly the book has a rarity scale as well as a price guide. A special encased was struck by the author which will be given with the sale of the first 100 copies. This special piece contains a 1958-D cent which is the year Jim started collecting. This book will surely be the bible for Wisconsin Encased for a long time to come.

For anyone collecting this type of exnumia, this book is a must for your library. To order a copy, you can contact the author at 414-281-4025 or by email at jrsnas@aol.com. He would also like to hear from anyone that has encased items that he doesn't have listed for a possible book supplement.



FLORIDA NEWS

by Tom Casper

Long-time MNS members, John and Nancy Wilson, now of Ocala, Florida, are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this year. To commemorate this momentous event, they issued a silver round. The obverse pictures John & Nancy, similar to their picture which appeared on the cover of the Numismatist a while ago as well as the dates April 27, 1968 – April 27, 2018. The reverse pictures a note with Santa Claus in the center and addressing John & Nancy as Mr. & Mrs. Claus. This probably has something to do with them collecting notes with Santa vignettes. Congratulations to you on this wonderful occasion. Shown here are the obverse and reverse scans of the medal.



Lee Hartz (l) receives a service award from Jim Heinrich in honor of his 21 years of service as MNS treasurer, April 19, 2018